

STDs in Persons Entering Corrections Facilities

Public Health Impact

Multiple studies and surveillance projects have demonstrated a high prevalence of STDs in persons entering jails and juvenile detention facilities.¹ Screening for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis at intake offers an opportunity to identify infections, prevent complications, and reduce transmission in the community. In cities where routine syphilis screening in jails occurs, a substantial percentage of all reported cases are identified in jails.² Compiling data and analyzing trends in STD prevalence in this population can provide one method for monitoring trends in STD prevalence in the community.

Observations

- In 2000, 10 states reported chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis data to CDC as part of the Jail STD Prevalence Monitoring Project. Five states reported syphilis data as part of the Syphilis Elimination Initiative. Two states reported syphilis data as part of the Innovations in Syphilis Prevention Project. Fourteen states reported data (at least 100 test results) from corrections facilities as part of the Regional Infertility Prevention Programs, and five additional states reported data in response to CDC's request for data.
- The maps shown in this section represent approximately 273,000 syphilis tests for men and 54,000 syphilis tests for women, 76,000 chlamydia tests for men and 46,000 chlamydia tests for women, and 112,000 gonorrhea tests for men and 33,000 gonorrhea tests for women.
- The median percentage of reactive syphilis tests was 6.4% (range, 0.8% to 30.0%) for women entering 29 adult jails and 0.5% (range, 0.0% to 0.7%) for adolescent women entering three juvenile detention centers (Figure EE). The median percentage of reactive tests was 2.5% (range, 1.1% to 7.2%) for men at 30 adult jails and 0.4% (range, 0.2% to 0.6%) at four juvenile facilities. The percentage of reactive syphilis tests was higher for women than for men in 29 (91%) of 32 adult and juvenile facilities reporting syphilis test results for both sexes (Figures EE, FF). The percentage of reactive syphilis tests representing cases of syphilis varied from site to site.
- The positivity for chlamydia and gonorrhea among women was higher in juvenile facilities than in adult facilities. Among adolescent women entering juvenile detention facilities, the median positivity for chlamydia was 15% (range, 1.5% to 28.9%); positivity was greater than 10% in 17 (71%) of 24 facilities reporting data (Figure GG).
- The median positivity for gonorrhea among women entering juvenile facilities was 4.9% (range, 0.5% to 13.0%); positivity was greater than 4% in 11 (73%) of 15 juvenile facilities (Figure II). The median positivity for chlamydial infection

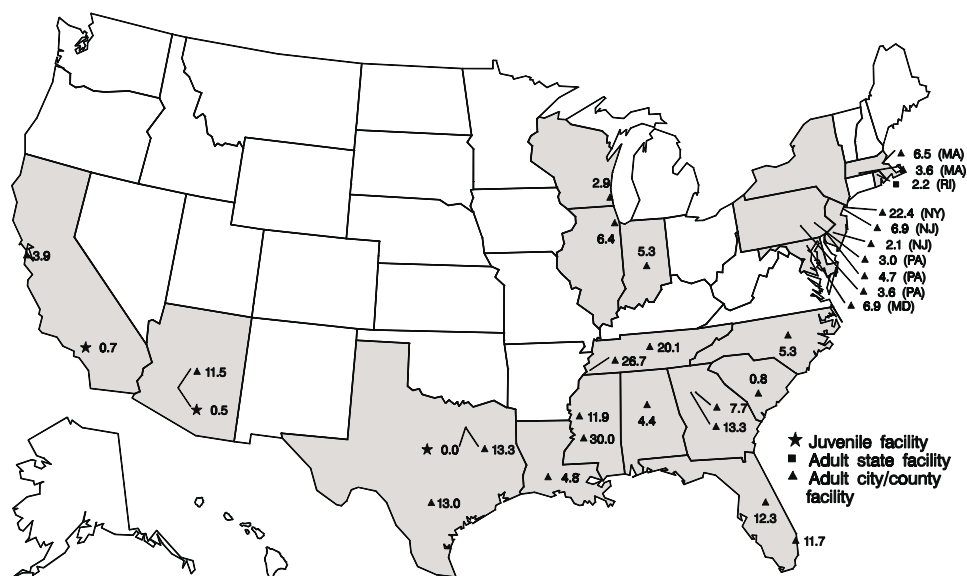
among men entering juvenile facilities in 30 counties was 6.6% (range, 0.9% to 13.0%) (Figure HH).

- The median positivity for gonorrhea among men entering juvenile facilities in 18 counties was 2.4% (range, 0.6% to 4.2%) (Figure JJ).

¹Mertz KJ, Voigt R, Hutchins K, Levine WC, and the Jail STD Prevalence Monitoring Group. High prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases in persons entering jails and juvenile detention centers in 13 United States counties. (Submitted 2001).

²CDC. Syphilis screening among women arrestees at the Cook County Jail – Chicago, 1996. *MMWR* 1998;47:432-3.

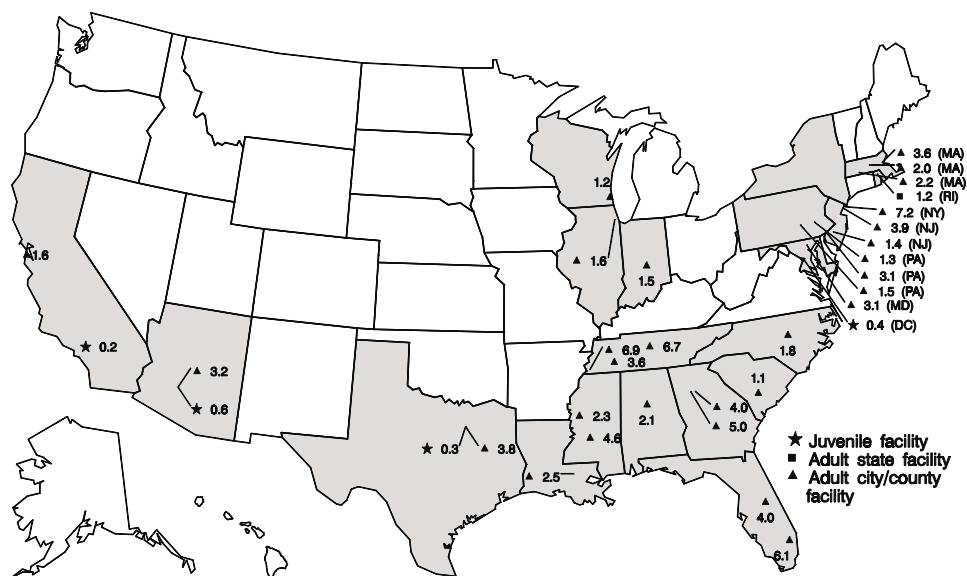
Figure EE. Syphilis serologic tests — Percent seroreactivity in women entering juvenile and adult corrections facilities[†], 2000



[†]From facilities reporting >100 test results.

SOURCE: Local and State STD Control Programs; Regional Infertility Prevention Programs; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Figure FF. Syphilis serologic tests — Percent seroreactivity in men entering juvenile and adult corrections facilities[†], 2000



[†]From facilities reporting >100 test results.

SOURCE: Local and State STD Control Programs; Regional Infertility Prevention Programs; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

★ Juvenile facility
 ■ Adult state facility
 ▲ Adult city/county facility

†From facilities reporting >100 test results.

SOURCE: Local and State STD Control Programs; Regional Infertility Prevention Programs; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

